Amnesty to ULFA

272. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any negotiations have beer held or are proposed to be held for granting amnesty to ULFA; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b) Some leaders of ULFA have given assurance to accept and seek solution to their problems, within, the Constitution of India; give up violence, to deposit their Arms after ratification by the General Council of the ULFA. The question of negotiations with the ULFA does not arise at this stage as the ratification of the decision has not been received.

Up-Gradation of North Eastern Council

273. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to U.Q. 1210 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th December, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision regarding the up-gradation of the North-Eastern Council (N.E. C.) from an advisory body to a ful-fledged regional planning authority; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefore and when Government propose to take a decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) The Government have not taken any decision to change the role of the North-Eastern Council.

(b) The question does not arise.

Thefts on Running Trains

274. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that thefts on running trains have become very frequent these days as per the news item under the caption "Rail Travel; At the mercy of Thieves", which appeared in *the Times of India*, dated December, 27, 1991;

(b) if so, the number of such thefts that took place in trains during the last 3 years and till date; and

(c) what fresh steps Government propose to take to prevent such thefts in running trains in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) A news item appeared in *the Times of India* dated 27th December, 1991 "Rail Travel: At the mercy of Thieves".

A statement showing the available information regarding thefts on running trains during the years 1989, 1990 and 1991 is enclosed. (*See* below)

(c) The prevention of crime on railways is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police which functions under the control of State Governments. It is for them to take necessary steps in this regard.

Statement

Theft in running trains during 1989, 1990 *and* 1991

Sl. No.	State/UT	1989	1990	1991 (Figures up to the month of)
1	2	3	4	5
STATES:				
1	Andhra Pradesh . . .	891	781	1 December
2	Arunachal Pradesh . .	..	..	NIL —Do. —